TABLE 3.9 Primary Aquifers in Upstate New York

Aquifer	Community systems using the aquifer	Population using the aquifer
Schenectady	27	156,916
Endicott/Johnson City	30	110,457
Rampo/Mahwah River Valleys	3	74,500
Irondogenesee Buried Valleys	19	49,000
Jamestown	7	46,529
Big Flats/Horseheads/Elmira	8	40,350
Cortland	7	30,492
Corning	8	27,110
Olean/Salamanca	6	21,455
Fishkill/Sprout Creek	11	20,298
Clifton Park/ Half moon	—	20,000
Owego/Waverly	8	16,535
Fulton	3	15,950
Seneca River	3	15,046
S. Fallsburgh/Woodbourne	2	12,000
Tonawanda Creek	3	12,360
Cohocton River	4	10,801
Croton-on-Hudson	1	8,100
		688,899

SOURCE: New York State Department of Health, 1981.

• "Principal" aquifers are underground formations known or suspected to be highly productive, but which are not heavily used for public water supply at this time. These are significant potential sources of future water supply.

Together, the primary and principal aquifers underlie roughly 10 percent of the upstate New York land area. The state's program includes policies designed to provide special protection for these areas. Recharge to upstate New York's ground water systems is derived from precipitation. Average annual rainfall ranges from 32 inches in the Central Lowlands and St. Lawrence Valley provinces to more than 50 inches in the Adirondack and Catskill regions.

Ground Water Quality Issues

While no major ground water quantity problems have occurred in upstate New York, there is evidence of ground water quality problems. Toxic